The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the field of civil, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Thru Payroll Savings

WHOLE NO. 1810 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1945 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 33, NO. 51

LABOR, USA

Washington, D. C.—The twenty-fourth edition of the American Federation of the Air, broadcast on the "Labor, USA" program over the American Broadcasting Company network, included the following outstanding feature articles to supplement the news:

Showdown In Moscow

By ROBERT J. WATT
AFL International Representative

The foreign ministers of the United States, Soviet Russia and Great Britain are meeting in Moscow in the icy cold of Russian winter—but the temperature cannot be more icy than the diplomatic relations among the big three since their last conference in London.

That is one of the reasons why the American people look forward to this conference with hopeful expectancy. They feel that any change of policy is almost bound to be for the better.

Inevitably, a diplomatic conference of this kind becomes very much like a poker game with the players holding their cards close to their vests.

Labor would like to suggest a sharp change of technique. This is no private gambling game the foreign ministers are playing. It involves all of us. It affects the future peace of the world.

Therefore, we recommend that Mr. Byrnes, Mr. Molotov and Mr. Bevin change their game from closed panels to showdown. We urge that they lay their cards on the table, face upward.

If that were done, it would show that we in America disapprove of Soviet policies with regard to other nations in Europe and Asia. It would show that Russia disapproves of our policy in Japan. It would show that we are unhappy about British policies in Palestine and Indonesia. It would show that Britain thinks both Russia and the United States are making mistakes.

In a showdown conference, these differences and misunderstandings can be thoroughly explored and, perhaps, corrected. But if the participants persist in trying to bluff each other, another war may come.

How can the United Nations Organization, which is scheduled to begin functioning next month, make any progress toward its goal of lasting peace if the big three continue at loggerheads?

This is the question the Foreign Ministers must face and resolve.

There is no time left to jockey for position. There is no longer any point in putting the finger of blame on any one nation. We must either begin immediately to agree on a just and equitable basis for peace or start preparing for something every civilized person dreads—the next war!

Fact Finding

By JOSEPH A. PADWAY
Chief Counsel for the AFL

Fact-finding is now being offered to the American people as a brand-new method of settling labor-industrial disputes. It is nothing of the sort.

Collective bargaining constitutes the original and most effective form of fact-finding. It provides for fact-finding by those in the best position to know the facts, namely—the employer and the union representing his employes.

Of course, it happens occasionally that collective bargaining breaks down when labor and management cannot reach an agreement on the facts.

But that doesn't necessarily mean that a strike or lockout must inevitably ensue.

Intelligent labor and intelligent management have worked out a solution for such deadlocks. It is a simple one. They agree in advance that if they cannot reach an agreement in the give and take of bargaining, it be submitted to an impartial outsider for decision.

This procedure is known as voluntary arbitration. It is completely fair to both sides. It protects the public from inconvenience from strikes or lockouts. For these reasons it was unanimously endorsed by the recent labor-management conference.

Now let us contrast such voluntary arbitration with fact-finding by government boards, as proposed under the Norton bill, which is pending in Congress. Voluntary arbitration absolutely prevents strikes and lockouts by agreement of the parties involved. The Norton bill merely suspends strikes and lockouts for 30 days under penalty of court injunctions but permits them thereafter. Under voluntary arbitration, both sides agree in advance to accept the decision as final and binding. Under the Norton bill either side may reject the findings of the government board.

Another advantage of voluntary arbitration is that labor and management pick their own arbitrator by agreement. Under the Norton bill, the members of the government board are named by the President. Under different administrations, it is conceivable that the appointees might either be pro-labor or anti-labor, depending on the views of the President in office. At any rate, neither labor nor management would have any voice in the selection of the arbitrators and therefore would lack confidence in their impartiality.

For these reasons, we submit that it would be the part of wisdom for the government to urge the inclusion of voluntary arbitration in every labor-management contract, instead of substituting compulsion of the compulsory, restrictive and unpopular Norton bill.

Congress Acts

By LEWIS G. HINES
AFL Legislative Representative

The antilabor drive in Congress suffered a severe setback this week when the House of Representatives refused to consider the Smith-May-Arends bill by a vote of 290 to 182.

But the very next day, the House reversed itself by adopting another antilabor bill, sponsored by Representative Hobbs—this time without a roll call vote.

It may appear foolhardy to attempt to draw any conclusions from such contradictory actions, but I am encouraged to believe the votes indicate a swing in Congress toward labor's side. Let me tell you why.

Unquestionably the Hobbs bill is a dangerous piece of class legislation. It was put over in the House by high-pressure salesmanship. Its sponsors claimed it would suppress racketeering in the truck transportation industry. Labor opposes racketeering just as vigorously as any Congressman. But we object to this bill because its real purpose is to interfere with the legitimate activities of the Teamsters Union. That part of the country is labor's particular bill. At that time, the Senate refused to act on the measure. Labor hopes and believes that the Senate again will refuse to go along with the House on it.

The defeat of the proposed rule for consideration of the Smith-May-Arends bill was more significant. This was a truly vicious bill. It proposed severe penalties against unions for strikes and it authorized damage suits against unions by anyone claiming losses from a strike.

Let me emphasize that this bill never got to a roll-call vote. The members of the House of Representatives had to vote by name and for the record. But when the Hobbs bill was considered they just stood up and were counted. That makes a big difference, sometimes, in how a Congressman votes.

The big test will come, however, on the Norton bill, which is now being considered at public hearings by the House subcommittee on labor. Strong political pressure has been exerted on members of Congress to rush this bill for adoption, despite the fact that all of organized labor and most of management are united in opposing it.

But there is another and more democratic pressure to which Congressmen and Senators respond. It is what they hear from their home districts. Those seven million members of the American Federation of Labor are now letting Congress hear from home. They are engaged in a write-in campaign objecting to any antilabor legislation as an unfriendly act toward the nation's workers. We appeal to the friends of labor everywhere to join in this campaign.

KEEP BUYING BONDS, DRIVE NOT YET OVER

Washington, D. C.—Don't stop buying Victory Bonds yet. The drive for the sale of Series "E" bonds will not end until Dec. 31, the Treasury Department announced. In a release to the Labor Press, the department said:

"Thousands of wage-earners buy their bonds by allotments made every payday over the full two-week accounting period. In all its drive operations the Treasury "keeps its score" by counting only completed purchases which have finally cleared through Federal Reserve Banks. That is the reason why the drive period for "E" bond sales is always longer than for other types of government bonds.

"We therefore need your sustained support for the Victory Loan through December 31."

MEDIATION BOARD TAKES HUGE RAILWAY DISPUTE

Chicago—Invoking the procedure outlined under the Railway Labor Act, the railroads transferred their negotiations with twenty unions on wages and working conditions to the National Mediation Board.

About 1,200,000 workers are involved. Major demand of the fifteen non-operating unions is a thirty-cent hourly wage increase.

The negotiations, which had gone on here for three weeks, broke down over the insistence of two independent operating brotherhoods that rule changes be discussed along with wage demands.

Under the Railway Labor Act, the National Mediation Board "sits to settle the present dispute, a fact-finding board appointed by the President will study the case and make recommendations.

Christmas Spirit

This is a Christmas story about labor and the veterans. The Central Labor Union of the American Federation of Labor in Washington, D. C., has just taken action in behalf of hospitalized veterans which should serve as an example for all other cities.

The CLU voted to present a Christmas gift to every soldier and sailor unfortunate enough to have to spend the holiday in nearby veterans hospitals. For this purpose the union will use a $14,000 unexpended balance of a civilian defense fund raised during the war.

But that's not all. The veterans in Washington hospitals will not be forgotten by labor after Christmas. Many local unions are contributing to an additional fund which will be raised to provide weekend parties and football games next year. And some of the unions are picking their prettiest girls to visit and entertain the boys regularly.

This sounds like such a good plan that we hope other labor groups will be quick to adopt it too.

House Votes Against Punitive Bill Designed To Destroy Labor Unions

Washington, D. C.—Organized labor won a resounding victory when the House of Representatives defeated a rule for immediate consideration of the obnoxious Smith-May-Arends Bill by a vote of 290 to 182.

This action probably sounds the death knell for the measure which has been described as the most dangerous pieces of anti-labor legislation ever proposed in Congress.

The bill was designed to penalize unions for strikes in violation of contracts and provides that an agreement in the future bargaining rights for one year and by making them liable to civil suits for damages by anyone claiming losses from the strike.

In effective attack on the bill was led by Rep. Andrew Biemiller of Wisconsin, a "freshman" Congressman who formerly served as organizer for the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor.

This bill is designed to destroy much of labor's civil liberties and give the unscrupulous employer advantages so great that it would be a simple matter to destroy large sections of the labor movement," Biemiller declared.

"It is the delight of labor-haters, in and out of Congress, who wish to reduce our working men and women to the old status of servant and master."

Contrary to the claims of its advocates, the measure would do nothing to allay industrial unrest, but would provoke more trouble, Biemiller argued.

The Smith-May-Arends Bill was in the form of an amendment attached to a bill for repeal of the Connally-Smith Act. Consequently, the drive to repeal this entirely discredited law has now also been stalled.

The following day the House of Representatives adopted the anti-labor Hobbs Bill by a voice vote. This bill had been amended to make it less dangerous to labor, but a vigorous fight was conducted against it. The bill now goes to the Senate which refused to act on it two years ago when the House passed a similar bill. Indications are that the Hobbs Bill will be buried quickly in the upper house. The measure seeks to make the Federal Anti-Racketeering Act applicable to labor after the Supreme Court held it could not be so applied. The AFL opposed the measure on the ground that its real purpose was to interfere with the legitimate activities of unions.

Churchmen Say Imported Workers Have Lowered Labor Standards

Washington, D. C.—Workers from Mexico, Jamaica and the Bahamas imported into this country three years ago to meet an alleged labor shortage have lowered the standards of American workers.

So asserts a group of distinguished churchmen, representing the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths, in a startling statement.

These workers, despite safeguards established for their protection, have been badly treated, the statement says. They are therefore singled out as having viciously exploited Mexicans brought in for work on the tracks.

The church leaders warn that efforts are being made at Washington by the railroads and other industries to keep these workers here.

The situation of American migratory workers, the statement insists, is already bad enough, without making it worse by forcing them to compete with aliens who are unable to protect themselves.

"These foreign workers declare, "are the most depressed group in the United States. They are denied decent housing, health and educational facilities. Irregular employment and inadequate wages are other evils they suffer."

The churchmen demand that migrants be protected by bringing them under the Wage and Hour Act and the Social Security Act.

Low wages and bad conditions, it is asserted, are the chief obstacles to securing a labor supply on the railroads, on the farms and in canning and other industries which have had the benefit of the labor of 62,000 imported Mexicans and 20,400 workers brought in from the West Indies.

Green Demands Truman Veto of Bill Switching USES To State Control

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed to President Truman to veto H.R. 4407, passed by both houses of Congress, because it carries a rider returning the U. S. Employment Service to state control.

At the same time the labor committee of the National Planning Association urged continued cooperation of the United States Employment Service. The group denounced proposed legislation which would disintegrate the service and return it to state control.

Offering a 5-point statement of principles for guidance of a national employment service, the committee pointed out that the government has had to take over the public employment service in every big crisis.

In a letter to the President, Mr. Green said:

"Just six months ago I wrote you urging that in some detail the position of the American Federation of Labor in favor of the continued operation of a national system of employment service offices under the administration of the United States Department of Labor. We were much gratified by your action in transferring the employment service to the Department of Labor, but I am sure you will agree that the effectiveness of this desirable action will be nullified if the present proposal is approved, dividing control of this valuable service into more than 48 separate units.

"You are no doubt aware of the action taken at the Secretary of Labor's Twelfth Annual Conference on Labor Legislation where overwhelming majority representatives from all sections of the country engaged labor meeting with state labor commissioners recommended the continued operation of a federal employment service and specifically recommended that you veto the legislation in question. I understand that in this representative conference only 8 persons opposed this recommendation. This substantiates the position of the American Federation of Labor that the working people of this nation are aware of the urgent need for a national employment service.

"I respectfully call to your attention that the provision in this measure providing for the transfer of the employment service to the states was taken by the Congress without hearings before the appropriate committee in either House. Legislation dealing with this matter has been introduced and is now under consideration by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. Your veto of the present measure would provide opportunity for a decision on this important question to be made by the Congress after due consideration of the views of organized labor meeting with state labor commissioners recommended the continued operation of a federal employment service and specifically recommended that you veto the legislation in question. I understand that in this representative conference only 8 persons opposed this recommendation. This substantiates the position of the American Federation of Labor that the working people of this nation are aware of the urgent need for a national employment service.

"I respectfully call to your attention that the provision in this measure providing for the transfer of the employment service to the states was taken by the Congress without hearings before the appropriate committee in either House. Legislation dealing with this matter has been introduced and is now under consideration by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. Your veto of the present measure would provide opportunity for a decision on this important question to be made by the Congress after due consideration of the views of organized labor and after the proponents of federal operation to be heard."

EMPLOYMENT BILL GOES TO CONFERENCE

Washington, D. C.—By a bipartisan vote of 254 to 126, the House passed and sent to conference its drastically changed version of the Senate's "full employment" bill.

The House measure, unlicensed from the form in which it was reported from its Expenditures Committee, eliminated references to "full employment," even changing the title to that end.

Labor Smashes Blitz Drive For Anti-Strike Measures

Green Flays Norton Bill With 7-Count Indictment

Washington, D. C.—In a vigorous denunciation of the Norton-Ellender Bill, AFL President William Green joined before the House Labor Committee a seven-count indictment of the compulsory, cooling-off, fact-finding measure.

The AFL chief charged:

"1—It invades the right to strike, which right labor must possess in order to procure economic justice.

"2—The proposal will serve as a signal to the states to pass similar laws applicable to intrastate disputes of every nature.

"3—Vital guarantees of the Norris-LaGuardia Act are automatically nullified or rendered worthless.

"4—The constitutional rights of freedom of speech, freedom of assemblage and freedom of the press are destroyed.

"5—Government by injunction is reestablished, subjecting violators to criminal contempt charges, and to imprisonment.

"6—The vicious "doctrine of conspiracy" in labor disputes is re-established.

"7—Civil damage suits are authorized and encouraged, and such suits may be brought against the union, the officers thereof as individuals, and the individual members."

Answering questions by committee members, Mr. Green refuted the contention that labor possesses an unfair interest and presses for its own selfish advantage in its relations with management. He said:

"We are always conscious of the public interest and anxious to protect and preserve it. In my opinion, the public interest can best be protected in labor-industrial disputes by the following program:

"First, collective bargaining should be wholeheartedly accepted. Secondly, the best possible government conciliation or mediation service should be provided. Third, joint labor-management committees should be established to develop cooperation and efficiency. Finally, unions and management should insert clauses in their contracts for voluntary arbitration of disputes."

National Legislative Conference Denounces State Anti-Labor Bills

Washington, D. C.—Repeal of all state antilabor laws was vigorously advocated by a national conference on labor legislation, meeting here.

The parley is sponsored annually by the National Labor Conference. Its delegates—both labor commissioners and state union chieftains—are appointed by governors. A majority of the states were represented in this week's meeting.

Restrictive laws which have been passed in some states were ascribed by the conference to an "organized antiunion campaign" waged by foes of labor. The so-called "Christian American Association," assailed as "neither Christian nor American," was singled out as a major lobby behind the repressive legislation.

Congress was urged to investigate the activities of similar organizations, so that the source of their finances may be determined.

Attempts to deal with labor relations by compulsory legislation were condemned, and a conference-wide record for free collective bargaining as the primary basis for settling disputes, to be supplemented where necessary by effective government machinery for conciliation, mediation and voluntary arbitration."

Maintenance of wartime "take-home" pay for a reduced work week was backed by the conference as an essential step to assure industrial peace. Also, the delegates favored the ultimate 30-hour week without reduction in earnings. For government employes—federal, state and local—the parley championed a 30 percent raise in salaries.

Senate and House hearings probably will not be resumed until January, the meantime, all antilabor legislation will be bottled up. This applies also to the Hobbs Bill, which was passed by the House.

AFL President William Green led the attack on the Norton-Ellender bill before the House Labor Committee, while the Senate heard only government witnesses testifying in its favor.

Members of both committees indicated they were displeased with the punitive and restrictive features of the bill and expressed doubt that it would effectively prevent strikes if adopted.

Mr. Green emphasized that while the bill does not contain specific penalties, it would subject unions all over again to the injunctions and conspiracy charges which have led to jail sentences for contempt of court.

The reprieve granted by Congress affords labor a glorious opportunity to maintain rank-and-file opposition to anti-labor legislation. Mr. Green urged all AFL members and organizations to write their Representatives and Senators during the recess urging defeat of such legislation.

Red Cross Upholds Pact With Labor Relief Groups

New York City.—Praising labor's generous support to his organization, Chairman Basil O'Connor of the American Red Cross denounced "erroneous and misleading statements" about the fund-raising agreement between the Red Cross and war relief committees of the AFL and CIO.

"There was never any secrecy about this agreement," O'Connor asserted. "The agreement involves no 'kick-back' or 'pay' in any sense to the labor war relief committees."

Mr. O'Connor was reelected as the head of the Red Cross and the organization voted to uphold its arrangement with the labor groups in the 1946 campaign.

After Congress entered the war, O'Connor said, the AFL Labor League for Human Rights and the CIO War Relief Committee agreed to merge their fund-raising activities with those of the National War Fund and the American Red Cross. An agreement was reached in 1942 providing that the actual expenses of the employes of the labor war relief committees be engaged full time in the fund-raising campaigns of the National War Fund and the Red Cross would be divided between the two organizations and reimbursed to the labor committees on an annual basis.

"After full discussion and careful consideration the original agreement was unanimously approved by the central committee of the American Red Cross," O'Connor said. "Thereafter, the agreement has been reviewed annually and approved by the central committee. All chapters of American Red Cross concerned approved of the arrangement and were given copies of the agreement.

"In addition to the extensive operation of the planning, the subject was fully discussed at meetings of the larger city chapters of American Red Cross held in Washington, and at regional and area conferences of Red Cross workers. The Red Cross has extensive labor press, with more than 800 publications, gave widespread publicity to the agreement in numerous articles and editorials.

"In these circumstances, to assert that secrecy of the arrangement could have been intended or achieved is as absurd as it is unfounded."

An incomplete estimate showed that AFL and CIO members contributed more than $30,000,000 during the 1945 Red Cgoss campaign, O'Connor disclosed. The two labor committees were reimbursed $258,-208.85 by the Red Cross for their actual expenses during that campaign.

SEASONAL SPURT BRINGS MORE JOBS

Washington, D. C.—Total employment in the United States, exclusive of agriculture, increased 1,113,000 last month to a total of 25,620,000, the Department of Labor reported. In the same period, however, manufacturing employment gains. In trade establishments alone, reflecting the Christmas preparations, 226,000 workers were added to the payrolls. The number of government employes dropped 184,000, chiefly because of dismissals in the War and Navy Departments.

Despite the lay-off of 90,000 employes in aircraft and ship building, the total of actual production workers in factories increased 27,000 between October and November.

UNEMPLOYMENT NOW HITS OTHER STATES

Washington, D. C.—A trend indicating that unemployment is spreading away from some former war production areas to other states was reported by the Social Security Board.

"But behind this picture of uniformity in nation-wide industrial unemployment," the board said, "there have been marked changes in insurance claim loads in the various states."

Congress Halts Action On Anti-Labor Bill Until After Holidays

Washington, D. C.—The sudden blitz drive for adoption of anti-labor legislation by Congress has been smashed.

Organized labor gained at least a temporary reprieve when the House and Senate Labor Committees voted to postpone action on the Norton-Ellender Bill until after the holidays.

This vote constituted a repudiation of administration leaders who had demanded enactment of the measure before Christmas.

United opposition by all of organized labor and most of management is believed, in Congressional circles, to have dimmed any chance of adoption of the Norton-Ellender Bill even after the committees resume consideration of the proposal after New Year's.

Both committees decided to broaden their inquiries to cover the entire field of labor-management relations next January. The members made it clear that they did not intend to act in haste and might take two months before deciding on legislation to recommend, if any. This was considered a highly favorable omen by organized labor leaders.

The Norton-Ellender Bill was introduced to carry out the recommendations of President Truman for legislation outlawing strikes for 30 days when the Secretary of Labor certifies a dispute to the President and he names a fact-finding board to consider the case and make recommendations.

In reality, however, the bill goes far beyond the President's recommendations and is regarded as highly dangerous by the trade union movement. Even management representatives joined in opposing many sections of the measure.

Senate and House hearings probably will not be resumed until January, the meantime, all antilabor legislation will be bottled up. This applies also to the Hobbs Bill, which was passed by the House.

AFL President William Green led the attack on the Norton-Ellender bill before the House Labor Committee, while the Senate heard only government witnesses testifying in its favor.

Members of both committees indicated they were displeased with the punitive and restrictive features of the bill and expressed doubt that it would effectively prevent strikes if adopted.

Mr. Green emphasized that while the bill does not contain specific penalties, it would subject unions all over again to the injunctions and conspiracy charges which have led to jail sentences for contempt of court.

The reprieve granted by Congress affords labor a glorious opportunity to maintain rank-and-file opposition to anti-labor legislation. Mr. Green urged all AFL members and organizations to write their Representatives and Senators during the recess urging defeat of such legislation.

AFL TOBACCO UNION SIGNS PACT WITH PHILIP MORRIS

Richmond, Va.—A new agreement between the Tobacco Workers International Union, Locals No. 203 and No. 209, and the Philip Morris Tobacco Company has just been consummated, in which the makers of the famous Philip Morris cigarette granted to over 2500 employes the following concessions:

A blanket 6c an hour wage increase; six holidays per year with pay; two weeks' paid vacation and the agency plan, which provides that all employes covered under the agreement are required to bear their pro rata share of the operational cost of collective bargaining. Under this method, the company agrees to deduct from the pay of each employe who is a non-union member, the same amount that is deducted as union dues from the pay of the union members, this sum being turned over to the local union having jurisdiction in the plant.

THIS EMPLOYER INSISTS ON ONLY UNION MEN

Brunswick, Ga., Dec. 12—Jack Northrop, president of the Glynn Boat and Dock Co., won't hire anyone but union men, because he wants to be assured of having good mechanics.

Northrop, whose boat-building firm is signed up with the AFL, declared:

"I am interested in working only union labor. When I hire a man, he must be a first-class mechanic, or he will not stay long with my company."